



www.bataanlegacy.org

January 11, 2016

State Superintendent Tom Torlakson
Tom Adams, Executive Director
Mr. Bill Honig, IQC
Members of the Instructional Quality Commission
California Department of Education

Re: Comments on History-Social Science Framework Second Field Review Draft
(Approved by IQC 20 Nov. 2015)

Dear State Superintendent Torlakson, Dr. Adams and Members of the Instructional Quality Commission:

On behalf of the Bataan Legacy Historical Society's Educational Advisory Steering Committee, I would like to submit the enclosed comments on the History-Social Science Framework Second Field Review Draft (approved by IQC 20 November 2015).

We are greatly appreciative of the hard work and support that you have given to implement AB199 and to include the role of the Filipinos and the Philippines during World War II in the History-Social Science Framework for Grade 11 (and partly in Grade 10, Line 912). However, we would like to point out several points that are crucial in the development of this framework, as further outlined in the enclosed document.

The two most salient points are:

1. The Filipinos were not just allies. The Philippines was a colony of the United States from 1898 until it gained its independence in 1946. The Filipino and American soldiers were part of the same Army Command – the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFPE).
2. The significance of the Battle of Bataan – Under War Plan Orange 3 or WPO3 (incorporated in Rainbow Plan 5), the USAFFE troops were to fight a delaying action. In the event of a successful enemy invasion, the troops were to retreat to the Bataan peninsula and await reinforcement from the United States.

We all know that reinforcement never came until 3 years later. Under WPO3, the war strategy in the Philippines was purely defensive. The priority under Rainbow Plan 5 was to Defeat Germany first. Hence, majority of the resources were directed to Europe.

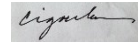
But the USAFFE troops, despite suffering from massive diseases and starvation and fighting without any air support, performed a delaying action that disrupted the timetable of the Imperial Japanese Army of 52 days and defended Bataan for 99 days.

Some of the points were made for historical accuracy – e.g., General Douglas MacArthur only became the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in the Pacific on August 14, 1945 following the Potsdam Agreement of July 26, 1945. At the time of the surrender on April 9, 1942, he was still the USAFFE's Commanding General. General Edward P. King, Jr. (not Ned King) was the Commanding General of Luzon Force.

We hope that you will be able to include these important points in the history curriculum framework in order to fully implement AB199 as well as to accurately portray this seminal point of World War II.

Again, we wish to thank you very much for your total support and hard work in implementing AB199 and in enabling California to lead the rest of the country in teaching this very important lesson in history.

Sincerely,



Cecilia I. Gaerlan
Executive Director
Bataan Legacy Historical Society
(510) 520-8540

Educational Advisory Steering Committee

Cecilia I. Gaerlan, Executive Director, Bataan Legacy Historical Society

Ray Cordoba, MA, PPS, Former Dean, Lowell High School, San Francisco, CA, USAR Vietnam veteran

Lt. Col. Rodrigo Dela Concepcion, Jr., INF, USAR (Retired), English Teacher, Sec. Ed. Retired

Angienette Desuyo Estonina, MA, Ed.D., Elementary Supervisor for the Multilingual Pathways Department in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction in San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)

Educational Advisory Group

Dely Alcantara, Ph.D., Exec. Director, Bataan-Corregidor Memorial Foundation, New Mexico

Steve Arevalo, Filipino American Community Organizer

Catherine Ceniza-Choy, Ph.D., Professor & Former Chair, Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley

Ray Cordoba, MA, PPS, Former Dean, Lowell High School, San Francisco, CA, USAR Vietnam veteran

Lt. Col. Rodrigo Dela Concepcion, Jr., INF, USAR (Retired), English Teacher, Sec. Ed. Retired

Pamela Doolan, Former President, Berkeley Unified School District Board of Education

Angienette Desuyo Estonina, MA, Ed.D., Elementary Supervisor for the Multilingual Pathways Department in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction in San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)

Jay Gonzalez, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Public Administration, Golden Gate University, SF

Michael Gonzalez, MA, Ed.D., Professor of Philippine Studies, City College of San Francisco

Brig. General Oscar Hilman (Retired), National President, Philippine Scouts Heritage Society

Estella Habal, Ph.D., Professor, Emeritus, San Jose State University

Linda Halog, Ph.D., Educational Psychologist

Oscar Peñaranda, MA, MA, Creative Writing, Certified Foreign Language Teacher

Ricardo Trota Jose, Ph.D., Professor of History, University of the Philippines, Director of the Third World Studies Center

Benito Legarda, Jr., Ph.D., Author and Founding Member, Memorare Manila 1945

Consuelo Hall-McHugh, Founding Member, Memorare Manila 1945

Ron Muriera, National Trustee, Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS), San Jose Arts Commission

Raquel Ramsey, Ph.D., (Retired) Beverly Hills Unified School District

Maj. General Eldon Regua (Retired)

Maj. General Antonio Taguba (Retired), Filipino Veteran Recognition and Education Project

Juanita Tamayo-Lott, Ph.D., Author, Common Destiny: Filipino American Generations' and retired federal demographer, Co-Founder of First Ethnic Studies Department in the U.S. (San Francisco State Univ.)

Sid Valledor, MBA, Author, The Original Writings of Philip Vera Cruz, Filipino-American labor organizer